

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A power outlet assembly, comprising:  
a frame;  
a power outlet attached to the frame and configured to be connected to a power distribution network to provide access thereto; and  
an indicator circuit attached to the frame, configured to be coupled to the power distribution network and operative to generate a sensory indication responsive to a power line carrier status signal received from the power distribution network.
2. The power outlet assembly of Claim 1 wherein the power line carrier status signal indicates a source of energy for the power distribution network.
3. The power outlet assembly of Claim 2 wherein the power line carrier status signal relates to an uninterruptible power supply (UPS).
4. The power outlet of Claim 2 wherein in the source of energy comprises at least one of a current source of energy and a potential source of energy.
5. The power outlet of Claim 1 wherein the power line carrier status signal comprises a low impact signal and wherein the low impact signal comprises at least one of an analog signal and a digital bit stream.
6. The power outlet assembly of Claim 1 wherein the indicator circuit comprises a liquid crystal display and wherein the liquid crystal display is configured to display a first color responsive to a first state of the power line carrier status signal and display a second color, different from the first color, responsive to a second state of the power line carrier status signal.
7. The power outlet assembly of Claim 1, wherein the indicator circuit comprises an audio circuit.

8. A power outlet comprising an indicator circuit, the indicator circuit being coupled to a power distribution network and configured to generate a sensory indication responsive to a power line carrier status signal received from the power distribution network.

9. The power outlet of Claim 8 wherein the power line carrier status signal indicates a source and/or status of energy for the power distribution network.

10. The power outlet of Claim 9 wherein the source of energy comprises at least one of a current source of energy and a potential source of energy.

11. The power outlet of Claim 9 wherein the indicator circuit is further configured to generate the sensory indication responsive to the power line carrier status signal when the indicator circuit electrically contacts an external probe device.

12. The power outlet of Claim 9 wherein the power line carrier status signal comprises a low impact signal and wherein the low impact signal comprises at least one of an analog signal and a digital bit stream.

13. The power outlet of Claim 8 wherein the indicator circuit comprises a liquid crystal display and wherein the liquid crystal display is configured to display a first color responsive to a first state of the power line carrier status signal and display a second color, different from the first color, responsive to a second state of the power line carrier status signal.

14. The power outlet of Claim 8 wherein the indicator circuit comprises an audio circuit.

15. A device comprising:  
a conductive member configured to engage a power contact of a power outlet;  
and  
an indicator circuit coupled to the conductive member and operative to receive a power line carrier status signal from the engaged power contact and to responsively display an indication of a status of the outlet.

16. The device of Claim 15 wherein the power line carrier status signal indicates a source of energy for the engaged power contact.

17. The device of Claim 16 wherein the source of energy relates to an uninterruptible power supply (UPS).

18. The device of Claim 16 wherein the source of energy comprises at least one of a current source of energy and a potential source of energy.

19. The device of Claim 15 wherein the power line carrier status signal comprises a low impact signal and wherein the low impact signal comprises at least one of an analog signal and a digital bit stream.

20. The device of Claim 15 wherein the indicator circuit comprises a liquid crystal display and wherein the liquid crystal display is configured to display a first color responsive to a first state of the power line carrier status signal and display a second color, different from the first color, responsive to a second state of the power line carrier status signal.

21. The device of Claim 15 wherein the indicator circuit comprises an audio circuit.

22. An apparatus comprising:  
an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) configured to be connected to a power distribution network; and  
a communications circuit operatively associated with the UPS and operative to generate a power line carrier status signal on the power distribution network, the power line carrier status signal being indicative of a status of power delivered to the power distribution network by the UPS.

23. The apparatus of Claim 22 wherein the communications circuit is configured to be coupled to an indicator circuit, the indicator circuit being operative to

generate a sensory indication responsive to the power line carrier status signal generated by the communications circuit.

24. The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the status of power delivered comprises at least one of a status of a current source of power and a status of a potential source of power.

25. The apparatus of Claim 23 wherein the indicator circuit is configured to be coupled to a power outlet and wherein the power outlet is configured to provide a sensory indication of the status of power delivered to the outlet responsive to the power line carrier status signal.

26. An apparatus comprising a communications circuit operative to generate a power line carrier status signal on a power distribution network, the power line carrier status signal identifying a source of power for the power distribution network.

27. The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein the apparatus is an uninterruptible power supply (UPS).

28. The apparatus of Claim 27 wherein the power line carrier status signal relates to the uninterruptible power supply (UPS).

29. The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein the source of power comprises at least one of a current source of power and a potential source of power.

30. The apparatus of Claim 26 wherein the power line carrier status signal comprises a low impact signal and wherein the low impact signal comprises at least one of an analog signal and a digital bit stream.

31. A method of indicating a status of power comprising providing a power line carrier status signal on a power distribution network, the power line carrier status signal indicating a source of energy for the power distribution network.

32. The method of Claim 31 wherein providing a power line carrier status signal comprises:

generating the power line carrier status signal on the power distribution network responsive to a status of the source of energy for the power distribution network.

33. The method of Claim 31 further comprising:

receiving the power line carrier status signal; and

generating a sensory indication responsive to the received power line carrier status signal.

34. The method of Claim 33 wherein generating the sensory indication further comprises:

generating a first color on a liquid crystal display to indicate detection of a power line carrier status signal having a first state; and

generating a second color on the liquid crystal display, different from the first color, to indicate detection of a power line carrier status signal having a second state.

35. The method of Claim 33 wherein the source of energy comprises at least one of a current source of power and a potential source of power.

36. A method of indicating a status of power comprising:

receiving a power line carrier status signal from a power distribution network, the power line carrier status signal indicating a source of energy of the power distribution network; and

generating a sensory indication responsive to the power line carrier status signal.

37. The method of Claim 36 wherein receiving is preceded by providing the power line carrier status signal on the power distribution network.

38. The method of Claim 37 wherein providing the power line carrier status signal comprises:

generating the power line carrier status signal on the power distribution network responsive to a status of the source of energy for the power distribution network.